



The official newsletter of Parents & Friends of Ex-Gays and Gays

Summer 2011



Parent Talk

Crossing the Line: A Mom's Dilemma

There are times when it becomes necessary to remove my PFOX hat and become just a mom. It is not easy to shift gears and be a good listener and not interject; it's something I have to work at.

I don't know how many of you have heard of Kevin Jennings, assistant deputy director of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools. Jennings' appointment in 2009 was controversial due to his previous work with the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), which rejects both former homosexuals and that sexual orientation is changeable.

After years of successful marketing of gay resources and gay clubs to the nation's schools -- and with the support of the National Education Association (NEA) and the Parent-Teacher's Association (PTA) -- Kevin Jennings was considered the leader in the gay-school agenda. Ex-gays, on the other hand, run into concrete walls in our nation's schools with zero support from the NEA and PTA for ex-gays, youth's questioning sexual identity, and those with unwanted same-sex attractions.

A year ago a discussion took place among PFOX board members about meeting with Kevin Jennings, President Barack Obama's appointee as the new Safe School czar, hoping to gain support and equality for ex-gays in our

nation's schools.

In August 2009, the DC court ruled

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I wanted it to be clear to Kevin Jennings that our meeting was not about publicity or politics; it was about the need to protect all children from bullying, including ex-gays.

Regina Griggs, PFOX

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that ex-gays are protected under sexual orientation laws. PFOX wanted to make sure that since ex-gays are classified as a sexual minority, Jennings would provide the same protection from bullying and abuse as is given to gays and transgenders.

PFOX sought and was granted an appointment with Jennings and a lawyer from the Department of Education.

On the day we met, I was nervous. The mom side of me wanted Kevin to like me and to know I had no hatred for him; I wanted Kevin to recognize that PFOX families want a respectful and

open relationship, one that allows for dialog. I found Kevin quite personable and learned he's a dog lover just like me. The hour passed quickly, during which Kevin agreed that no child should be bullied, including ex-gays. Please read the press release on page 2 for the rest of the story.

I waited a year before releasing the information about the PFOX-Jennings meeting. I wanted it to be clear to Kevin Jennings that our meeting was not about publicity or politics; it was about the need to protect all children from bullying, including ex-gays. I hoped we could meet again and that ex-gays would be invited to sit on any panel or commission dealing with sexual orientation. Jennings spoke with Christopher Doyle, PFOX board member, and we continue to work toward the goal of inclusion.

Kevin Jennings will be leaving office by the time you get this newsletter,

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continued on page 4*

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Departing Safe Schools Czar Met with PFOX to Discuss Ex-Gays

Group Calls on Obama to Extend Same Recognition to Ex-Gays as Transgenders

JUNE 8, 2011, WASHINGTON, DC: Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays & Gays (PFOX) today thank Kevin Jennings, assistant deputy director of the U.S. Department of Education, for meeting with PFOX and call upon President Barack Obama to do the same.

Jennings recently announced he is leaving the Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools. His appointment in 2009 was controversial due to his previous work with the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), which rejects former homosexuals.

During Jennings' tenure, he met with PFOX, which advocates for equality and equal access for the ex-gay community, and he assured them that his office represents students with all sexual orientations, including those with unwanted same-sex attractions (SSA). Jennings also affirmed the right of ex-gay organizations to have equal access in the nation's schools and agreed that former homosexuals should not be discriminated against during outreach efforts for students with unwanted SSA.

"I commend Mr. Jennings for affirming that his work to combat bullying in schools includes protection for ex-gays," commented former homosexual Christopher Doyle, one of several PFOX

board members who, in February 2010, met with Jennings and Joseph Wheeler, attorney for the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights. Wheeler said he agrees with the Washington, DC Superior Court's 2009 ruling that ex-gays are a legally protected class.

"Mr. Jennings extended a hand of civility toward former homosexuals. Despite our different paths, both gays and ex-gays can stand united over the ideal that no student should be bullied because of sexual feelings, and all organizations leading outreach efforts must be extended equal access," said Doyle.

In light of the Administration's recent meeting with the transgender community, PFOX is calling on President Obama to extend the same courtesy and meet with ex-gays.



Kevin Jennings and ex-gay Christopher Doyle embrace.

"The administration's meeting with transgenders was a first for the White House, and it would be historic for this administration to extend the same consideration for ex-gays," said Doyle. "Considering the increasing ex-gay population and the example that Jennings set, the President should also include our voices in sexual orientation policies."

Everything I Needed to Know to be a Better Christian I Learned from Having a Son who is Gay

I have learned to have compassion toward other parents whose children are living a lifestyle different from the one they were taught. 1 Peter 3:8

I have learned to be caring toward his friends, in hopes that I can make a difference, and that it is possible to accept someone without approving their behavior. Jude 1:22

I have learned that I am not responsible for his choices, because each of us has to individually answer to God. Philippians 2:13

I have learned to pray without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 5:7

I have learned to count this time of "testing my faith" as a blessing, because it will fine-tune me to show compassion to others who are hurting. James 1:2, 3

I have learned to ask God for wisdom in decisions I need to make. James 1:5

I have learned what true friendship is and how to be a conduit of God's love. Proverbs 18:24

I have learned what unconditional love is all about. 1

Corinthians 13:48a

I have learned about patience. "The strength of those who wait upon the Lord will be renewed." Isaiah 40:31

I have learned to relinquish my child to God and, in turn, to love ex-gays and strugglers as the children God has sent in my path. Proverbs 11:21

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http://pfox.org/everything_know.html

Michelle Bachmann and Ex-Gays

I Am a Man

By Greg Quinlan

Why have gay activists instigated media attention over ex-gays and the husband of Presidential candidate Michelle Bachmann?

Apparently, Mr. Bachmann, who has a PhD in clinical psychology, operates several counseling centers which also offer services to homosexual clients seeking to overcome unwanted same-sex attractions. But because even one ex-gay proves that homosexual behavior is not innate or immutable, the gay lobby's fear of their former members results in false claims and attacks aimed at preventing homosexuals from exercising their right to self-determination. They cannot bear to have even one homosexual leave homosexuality, hence their outrage at Dr. Bachmann.

I know because I am ex-gay myself. I suffer more harassment as a former homosexual than I ever did as an out and proud homosexual.

The ex-gay community includes thousands of former homosexuals like myself who benefited from counseling. We did not choose our homosexual feelings, but we did exercise our right to seek help to change those feelings. As a registered nurse, I saw hundreds of gay men die of AIDS before I finally left the gay lifestyle.

Contrary to the myths being generated by outraged homosexuals, counseling for unwanted same-sex attractions is not prohibited by any medical association. Unhappy homosexuals are not children in need of parental permission and can freely choose their own therapeutic treatment just like anyone else.

The Bachmann incident demonstrates that as homosexuals gain more civil rights, heterosexuals are losing theirs. Because gays are a wealthy and politically powerful minority, they claim access to media attention, political power and corporate influence that middle America does not have.

Dependent on the wealth of the gay community for his election and reelection campaigns, President Obama

vigorously implements gay, bisexual and transgender policies at every level of the federal government, yet omits the only unpopular status of sexual orientation -- that of ex-gay. But to his credit, Obama refused to cave in to homosexuals when they demanded he remove ex-gay singer Donnie McClurkin from a campaign fundraiser.

President Obama needs to demonstrate that kind of courage once more, and support those who change their sexual orientation as much as he supports those who change their gender. But who will ask him? A jittery media fearful of gay reprisals remain silent, a further testament to homosexual influence and power.

While the media look the other way, the ex-gay community is being harassed and publicly denounced by unforgiving gay activists because of our unpopular sexual orientation.

Wayne Besen of the hate group Truth Wins Out, and other modern day Sauls, stalk and expose 'out' ex-gays in a negative light to ensure that they retreat back into the closet. Lambda Legal supports the establishment of GLBT Centers at public universities but blocks any attempt at ex-gay equal access. Corporate shareholder resolutions to include ex-gays in anti-discrimination policies are repeatedly defeated by the gay community.

The Human Rights Campaign demands same-sex marriage for gays while fighting ex-gay equality. One of their latest victories is to successfully bully the World Bank into denying funds to ex-gay charities while allowing gay organizations to participate.

Yet ex-gays are not dangerous or deluded as homosexual extremists charge. We are the National Education Association's Ex-Gay Educators Caucus. We are Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays & Gays, which successfully sued the District of Columbia government for refusing to recognize former homosexuals in its sexual orientation protections. We are your doctors, teachers, ministers, family, and neighbors.



Greg Quinlan

The American Psychological Association adheres to a code of ethics which calls on their members to respect a person's right to self-determination. Therefore the only question about the Dr. Bachmann news is this: Should homosexuals have the right to determine heterosexuality? That is, if a gay man decides he wants to live as a healthy heterosexual, as I decided, should homosexuals have the right to veto that decision?

The answer will determine if America is to be ruled by a politically powerful minority like the gay community, or if equality and justice for all will prevail. As for me, I long to live in an America where my friends and I are not hounded by gay activists because I chose to change from gay to straight.

NOTE: Greg Quinlan is President of Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays & Gays and Executive Director of Equality and Justice For All.

<http://pfox-exgays.blogspot.com/2011/07/michelle-bachman-and-ex-gays.html>

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so pray that he takes with him the knowledge that we care about him as a person and that ex-gays are merely seeking respect.

Some think I stepped over the line and was wrong for meeting with Kevin Jennings. Many people judge Jennings by his actions as a leader and activist for the gay community and for his ability to have taken control of our nation's schools.

To me, Kevin is like any of our children who made the decision to live

life as an open homosexual and gay activist. Perhaps by meeting us a spark was lit and we are not who he perceived us to be.

We cannot change anyone, nor should we try. Change comes from a desire within. By our consistent showing of concern for someone, we may earn the right to have them hear what we have to say. Remember, feelings don't happen overnight and change is an ongoing challenge for many men and women.

Regina

Current address

Please note our address: PFOX, PO Box 510, Reedville VA 22539. You can also reach us by telephone at 804-453-4737. Thank you.

Family and Friends Prayer List

Mary Beth, Tom, Sean, Stan, Christopher, Lucas, Beth, Elaine, Joshua, Benjamin, Hampton, Cheryl, Stacy, Carol, Mattie, Nicole, David, Bob, Rose, Steve, Ronald, James, Madeline, Jesus, Rick, Gary, April, Maureen, Jen, Michael, Eric, Allen, Sara,

Damon, Sam, Matthew, Deborah, Corey, James, Jeffery, Melanie, Stan, Brooke, Lisa, Emily, Tyler, Jim, Chad, Brett, Charles, Brian, Jerome, Pamela, Kelly, Tim, Roger, Gaetano, Christian, Judy, Michael, Monte, Gary, Karen, Hillary, Stephan, Brooke, Terri, Elise, Joseph, Vickie, Tricia, Paul,

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David, Charles, Edward, Matt, Marc, Heather, Gary, Bill, John, Jeremy, Jen R, Cindy, Karen, Brian, Shellie, Pattie, Emily, Carrie, Alicia, Michelle, Bruce, Rebecca, Suhmin, Phil, Bryce,

Ethan, Doug, Tom, Nick, Harold, Kent, Glenn, Rob and Heath, Angela, Julia, Wess, Christine, Catherine, Jeremy, Katie, David, Troy, Mike, Lisa, Bruce, James, Mary, Samantha, Victoria and Buddy, Christopher A., Jeramie C., Adam C., Christopher K., Perry N., Eric, Missy, Nathan, Michelle, Joe and Idario, Miranda Marie, Sarah, Levi.

Celebrate With Us

August

- August 4: U.S. Coast Guard Day
- August 7: Friendship Day
- August 7: National Lighthouse Day
- August 7: International Forgiveness Day
- August 7: Sisters Day
- August 9: Book Lover's Day
- August 11: Son and Daughter Day
- August 12: Middle Child's Day
- August 15: Relaxation Day
- August 21: Senior Citizen's Day
- August 22: Be an Angel Day
- August 25: Kiss and Make Up Day
- August 26: National Dog Day

August

- August 27: Global Forgiveness Day
- August 27: Just Because Day

September:

- * Classical Music Month
- National Courtesy Month
- Self Improvement Month
- 2: VJ Day (Surrender ceremony aboard the USS Missouri formally ends WWII)
- 5: Labor Day
- 6: Read a Book Day
- 8: Pardon Day
- 9: Teddy Bear Day
- 11: Grandparent's Day
- 11: National Pet Memorial Day
- 11: Remembrance Day (to honor the memory of 9-11)
- 13: Defy Superstition Day
- 13: Positive Thinking Day
- 16: Step Family Day
- 16: Mayflower Day
- 16: POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 17: Citizenship Day
- 17: Constitution Day
- 19: International Talk Like A Pirate Day
- 21: International Peace Day
- 23: Native American Day
- 28 National Good Neighbor Day



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